

I CLAIM:

1. A method of installing a software program in a host device, said software program being required for said host device to communicate with a peripheral device, said method comprising the steps of:

coupling said host device to said peripheral device utilizing a USB serial interface, said peripheral device containing said software program stored in a memory device contained in said peripheral device;

uploading said software program from said peripheral device to said host device over said USB serial interface; and

installing said software program in said host device thereby allowing communication between said host device and said peripheral device.

2. The method of installing a software program in a host device according to claim 1, wherein said software program is a driver associated with said peripheral device which allows for communication between said host device and said peripheral device.

3. The method of installing a software program in a host device according to claim 1, wherein said software program is an application for executing a functional operation associated with the operation of the peripheral device.

4. The method of installing a software program in a host device according to claim 1, wherein host device and said peripheral device communicate with one another utilizing the USB specification.

5. A method of installing a software program in a host device, said software program being required for said host device to communicate with a peripheral device, said method comprising the steps of:

coupling said host device to said peripheral device utilizing a USB serial interface, said peripheral device containing said software program stored in a memory device contained in said peripheral device; and

determining if said host device comprises a copy of said software program stored in a memory device contained in said host device;

wherein if said host device comprises said software program in said memory device contained in said host device, said host device installs said software program so as to allow communication between said host device and said peripheral device, and if said host device does not comprise said software program in said memory device contained in said host device, said host device uploads said software program from said peripheral device to said host device over said USB serial interface, and installs said software program in said host device thereby allowing communication between said host device and said peripheral device.

6. The method of installing a software program in a host device according to claim 5, wherein said software program is a driver associated with said peripheral device, which allows for communication between said host device and said peripheral device.

7. The method of installing a software program in a host device according to claim 5, wherein said software program is an application for executing a functional operation associated with the operation of the peripheral device.

8. The method of installing a software program in a host device according to claim 5, wherein host device and said peripheral device communicate with one another utilizing the USB specification.

9. A host device capable of communicating with any one of a plurality of peripheral devices utilizing a USB serial interface, each of said plurality of peripheral devices having the software driver necessary for communicating with a given peripheral stored in a memory device contained in said given peripheral, said host device comprising:

a USB interface capable of defining said host device as a master device relative to said plurality of peripheral devices,

a software driver uploader for uploading the software driver of a given one of said plurality of peripheral devices, which is coupled to said host device via said USB serial interface, and

a software driver installer for installing said software driver uploaded from said given one of said plurality of peripheral devices so as to allow communication between said host device and said given one of said plurality of peripheral devices.

10. The method of installing a software program in a host device according to claim 9, wherein host device and said given one of said plurality of peripheral devices communicate with one another utilizing the USB specification.